

CLAIMS

1. A method of cleaning a surface, comprising applying water containing no
5 more than 1 ppm gas to the surface to disperse or dissolve dirt on the surface
in the water.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water contains no more than
about 0.9 ppm gas.
- 10 3. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water contains no more than
about 0.3 ppm gas.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water contains no more than
15 about 3 ppb gas.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein the water contains no more than
about 0.3 ppb gas.
- 20 6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the surface is
on an article and wherein the method comprises cleaning the article in the
water in a container.
7. A method according to claim 6, wherein one or both of the article and water
25 are agitated.
8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water is
applied to the surface by spraying.
- 30 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the water is sprayed on to the surface
by means of an airless spray system.

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10. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 5, which comprises applying multiple streams of the water to the surface to agitate dirt on the surface.
- 5 11. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water contains hydrophilic stabilising material to alleviate redeposition of the dirt on the surface.
12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, which comprises
10 using a stored source of the water containing no more than 1 ppm gas.
13. A method according to any one of claims 1 to 11, which includes de-gassing a source of water to a level of no more than 1 ppm gas.
- 15 14. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, which comprises dissolving hydrophobic dirt on the surface using a non-aqueous solvent, and dispersing the non-aqueous solvent and dissolved hydrophobic dirt in the water.
- 20 15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the non-aqueous solvent is applied to the surface prior to applying the water to the surface.
16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the surface is relatively separated from a liquid body of the non-aqueous solvent prior to applying the water to
25 the surface.
17. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 16 wherein the non-aqueous solvent applied to the surface contains no more than about 10 ppm gas.
- 30 18. A method according to claim 17, wherein the non-aqueous solvent applied to the surface contains no more than about 1 ppm gas.

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19. A method according to claim 17, wherein the non-aqueous solvent applied to the surface contains no more than about 0.3 ppm gas.
- 5 20. A method according to claim 17, wherein the non-aqueous solvent applied to the surface contains no more than about 3 ppb gas.
21. A method according to claim 17, wherein the non-aqueous solvent applied to the surface contains no more than about 0.3 ppb gas.
- 10 22. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 21, which comprises using a stored source of the non-aqueous solvent containing no more than 10 ppm gas.
- 15 23. A method according to any one of claims 17 to 21, which includes de-gassing the non-aqueous solvent to a level of no more than 10 ppm gas.
24. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 23, wherein the non-aqueous solvent is hydrophobic.
- 20 25. A method according to any one of claims 14 to 24, wherein the non-aqueous solvent is selected from hydrocarbons, fluorocarbons, chloro-hydrocarbons, silicone liquids and mixtures of one or more of same.
- 25 26. A method according to claim 25, wherein the non-aqueous solvent is selected from dodecane, squalene, hexamethyldisiloxane, perfluorohexane, hexane and mixtures of one or more of same.
27. Apparatus for cleaning a surface, comprising a source of water containing no more than 1 ppm gas and a dispenser for applying the water to the surface.
- 30 28. Apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the surface is on an article and the

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apparatus includes a container for receiving the article.

29. Apparatus according to claim 28, which includes an agitator for one or both of the article and water.

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30. Apparatus according to any one of claims 27 to 29, wherein the dispenser comprises a sprayer.

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31. Apparatus according to claim 30, wherein the sprayer is part of an airless spray system.

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32. Apparatus according to any one of claims 27 to 29, wherein the dispenser applies multiple streams of the water to the surface to agitate dirt on the surface.

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33. Apparatus according to any one of claims 27 to 32, wherein the source of water comprises a store of the water containing no more than 1 ppm gas.

34. Apparatus according to any one of claims 27 to 33, wherein the source of water comprises equipment for de-gassing water to a level of no more than 1 ppm gas.

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35. Apparatus according to any one of claims 27 to 34, which includes a source of non-aqueous solvent and a dispenser for applying the non-aqueous solvent to the surface.

36. Apparatus according to claim 35, wherein one dispenser is used for applying the water and the non-aqueous solvent.

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37. Apparatus according to claim 35 or 36, wherein the source of the non-aqueous solvent comprises a store of the non-aqueous solvent.

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38. Apparatus according to any one of claims 35 to 37, wherein the source of non-aqueous solvent comprises equipment for de-gassing non-aqueous solvent to a level of no more than 10 ppm gas.